

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SB 338**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN KEN MESAROS**, on April 13, 1999 at  
10:00 A.M., in Room 410 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Ken Mesaros, Chairman (R)  
Sen. William Crismore (R)  
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)  
Rep. Daniel Fuchs (R)  
Rep. George Golie (D)  
Rep. Douglas Wagner (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Doug Sternberg, Legislative Branch  
Adrienne Pillatzke, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and  
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted:  
Executive Action: SB 338

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 338**

**Doug Sternberg** entered amendment SB033809.ads,  
**EXHIBIT**(ccs80sb0338a01).

**SENATOR MESAROS** explained amendment SB033809.ads.

**Motion:** **REP. GOLIE** moved that **SB033809.ADS BE ADOPTED.**

**Discussion:**

**REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER** asked if the amendment language was already inserted in the bill. **SENATOR MESAROS** replied the amendment was in the bill and one of the House amendments struck the language. He said it is identical language and the only change would be the \$110 fee so it will be consistent with other legislation.

**REPRESENTATIVE GOLIE** asked since HB 478 has not passed yet. He was wondering if Senator Mesaros was thinking HB 478 is going to pass. **SENATOR MESAROS** replied the committee treats every bill individually and he does not know the outcome for HB 478.

**REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER** asked if HB 478 was still alive and in a Conference Committee. **SENATOR MESAROS** replied yes.

**REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER** asked if the fee would be the same in both SB 338 and HB 478 with the amendment being proposed. **SENATOR MESAROS** replied yes with this amendment.

**REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER** asked if there would be more pressure to keep HB 478 alive and make it work if the amendment's language was not put into SB 338. **REPRESENTATIVE FUCHS** replied the problem remains, if both bills pass, is which fee will be the one which will be used. **REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER** said if both bills pass the fees are the same. He said there is no fee currently in SB 338, it stays at \$55.

**SENATOR MESAROS** asked about the change of increasing the fee to \$110. **Doug Sternberg** replied the fee change is in amendment #4. He said amendment #6 also specifically allocates the increase of the \$55 to the hunting access.

**REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER** asked by allocating the fee increase, does the money go into the fund which funds block management. **Doug Sternberg** replied yes. **REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER** asked if it is expanded using this source of revenue. **Doug Sternberg** replied yes. They are doubling the price of the license fee and taking

the increased amount and allocating the \$55 to the block management.

**SENATOR MCCARTHY** asked about amendment #7. She asked if they are changing the termination date by four years. **Doug Sternberg** replied that is only section 5. He said it is to be consistent with the termination date which applies to all the other sections of the block management program.

**REPRESENTATIVE GOLIE** said since the fee increase is going to be covered in this bill, he was wondering if HB 478 is going to go by the wayside. **SENATOR MESAROS** replied we are all here to judge each bill on its own merits. He said it is not his intent to add the fee increase into SB 338 and kill HB 478. He was trying to create some consistency. He would like to see some expansion in block management.

**SENATOR CRISMORE** said if the amendment is not passed and HB 478 does not pass, then there will still be a \$55 license. **SENATOR MESAROS** replied then there will be no expansion for block management.

**Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**Doug Sternberg** entered and explained amendment SB033810.ads, **EXHIBIT**(ccs80sb0338a02).

**SENATOR MCCARTHY** asked is the amendment because the landowner wants to bring relatives to hunt and cannot get the licenses. **Doug Sternberg** replied yes. He said it was Representative Grinde's idea to make the licenses available to family members or to whomever the resident landowner sponsor would like to have on his property.

**Motion:** REP. FUCHS moved that **SB033810.ADS BE ADOPTED.**

**Discussion:**

**REPRESENTATIVE GOLIE** asked if the landowner already have the fifteen certificate sponsorships and are they getting two more licenses. **Doug Sternberg** referred to page 16, subsection 3. He read the present language. He said fifteen landowner sponsorships is the cap for the landowner sponsor.

**SENATOR MCCARTHY** replied the amendment gives the landowner two more. **Doug Sternberg** replied the amendment would set aside two licenses but the fifteen sponsorship cap would still apply. The

landowners would be granted two but they could not get more than fifteen in any one license year.

**SENATOR CRISMORE** asked if Pat Graham could clarify the issue. **Pat Graham, FWP** replied the amendment would say everybody who applied would get one license before anybody got two licenses, and everybody would get two licenses before anybody got three licenses. He said after two licenses what amount of licenses left would be available up to the fifteen people who could be sponsored. He said the two licenses are not in addition to the fifteen licenses.

**REPRESENTATIVE GOLIE** said the end result was to have everybody who wants to sponsor have at least one license. **Pat Graham** replied that amendment is already in the bill. He said the amendment says if there are more people requesting than there are licenses available then the department has to do a drawing.

**REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER** asked if there were enough licenses to go all the way around once and not enough to go all the way around twice then it would be a luck of the draw for the second license. **Pat Graham** replied yes. He said the amendment would clarify the department would have to do a drawing. He said the bill, without the amendment, does not say what the department would do.

**Vote: Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion/Vote: SEN. MCCARTHY moved that SB 338 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:25 A.M.

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SEN. KEN MESAROS, Chairman

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ADRIENNE PILLATZKE, Secretary

**EXHIBIT** (ccs80sb0338aad)